

IOWA BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:)	BoEE case no. 06-22
)	(DIA No. 06BEE022)
SUSAN ELIZABETH PETERSON,)	
(Folder # 223382))	STIPULATION
)	and ORDER
RESPONDENT.)	

In accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code sections 17A.12(5) and 272.2(4) (2007) and 282 IAC 11.4(6), and with full knowledge of her right to demand a formal hearing before the Board upon the pending complaint prior to the disciplinary action by the Board, the Respondent expressly waives the right to a disciplinary hearing and notifies the Board of her desire to resolve the pending complaint through means of informal disposition.

The Respondent concedes to the jurisdiction of the Board for all issues relevant hereto, and voluntarily consents to the State's counsel presenting this agreement to the Board. If the Board does not accept the terms of this agreement, the stipulations contained herein are not binding upon the Respondent and will not be presented against her at the time of hearing without further agreement of the Respondent.

Board approval of this settlement shall constitute resolution of this matter and will be entered as a FINAL ORDER of the Board.

STIPULATIONS

1. On March 9, 2000, Ms. Peterson was issued a Professional Administrator license by the Board of Educational Examiners, with endorsements to serve as a 7-12 Principal and an Evaluator Approval. Folder reference number 223382. Ms. Peterson's administrator license expired on December 31, 2004.
2. Ms. Peterson was employed as secondary principal at the A-H-S-T Community School District on July 1, 2004, and continues in that position.
3. In the fall of 2004, during her first year as a principal at A-H-S-T, Ms. Peterson and the district's Superintendent, Chuck Scott, noticed that a teacher assigned to teach secondary level math at the district held only a K-6 license. Ms. Peterson and Mr. Scott contacted a consultant with the Board of Educational Examiners to discuss the situation and learned that the teacher was eligible to receive a Class B, "two-year conditional," license which would allow him to legally teach secondary math classes. The teacher completed an application for the conditional license and provided it to Ms. Peterson in late 2004, with the understanding that she would complete the school district's statement on the application and send the application to the Board. The application was not received at the Board office.

4. Ms. Peterson continued to assign the teacher to teach secondary mathematics without verifying whether he had received his Class B, "two-year conditional," license. The Respondent did not again check the status of the teacher's license until she received a complaint from a parent in March of 2006. The teacher did not hold or apply for a license or endorsement to teach at the secondary level until May of 2006, after the Board of Educational Examiners received a Complaint that he was teaching outside of the grade level for which he was licensed and a Complaint that Ms. Peterson was allowing him to teach at the secondary level without holding the appropriate license.
5. During both the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years, Ms. Peterson allowed the teacher to perform services for which he was not properly licensed, in violation of Iowa Code sections 272.7 and 294.1 and Board rules 282 IAC 12.3(4)(a) and 12.3(4)(f) [in place until 9/8/2004] and 282 IAC 25.3(5)(a)(4) and 25.3(6)(j) and (m) [effective 9/8/04 to present].
6. In addition, Ms. Peterson failed to timely renew her own license, which expired on December 31, 2004.
7. On March 9, 2007, Ms. Peterson made application for renewal of her administrative license. Upon review of the application and accompanying documentation, Board staff determined that Ms. Peterson had completed the required renewal course work and evaluator training. Ms. Peterson paid a \$150.00 late fee, as required by Board rule 282 IAC 14.121(7) and was issued the renewed license, effective through December 31, 2009 (five years from the date of expiration of her initial administrator license).
8. Ms. Peterson acknowledges that she both employed a practitioner to teach outside of the grade level for which he was licensed and that she failed to timely renew her own license.
9. Ms. Peterson acknowledges that it was her responsibility to ensure that she and her staff held appropriate licenses and that she should have monitored her own license status and followed up to ensure that her staff was appropriately licensed.
10. In order to finally resolve this matter, the Ms. Peterson is willing to accept a deferred one-year suspension of her administrator license and complete the following tasks to gain a better understanding of the consequences of this violation and to protect against further violations:
 - a) enroll in and successfully complete a Board-approved course addressing professional ethics and licensure;
 - b) review and become familiar with the Board rules establishing the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics [282 IAC ch. 25] and the Code of Rights and Responsibilities [282 IAC ch. 26]; and

- c) review A-H-S-T Community School District policies and procedures for monitoring practitioner licensure and prepare a report setting forth recommendations for improvement of the procedures to ensure compliance with the general accreditation standards of the Iowa Department of Education governing school personnel licensure verification and reporting [281 IAC rule 12.4]. Copies of the report shall be provided to the district Superintendent and the Executive Director of the Board of Educational Examiners.

If the Respondent presents evidence of successful completion of these tasks to the Executive Director of the Board on or before December 31, 2007, the suspension will not be imposed. A failure to complete any of the tasks will be grounds for imposition of the deferred suspension.

LICENSEE DECLARATION

I understand that this settlement agreement is subject to the approval of the Board and will have no force or effect if it is not accepted by the Board.

I agree to comply with the requirements set forth in the stipulations and understand that my failure to do so will result in further suspension of my teaching license.

I understand that the Notice of Hearing and Stipulation and Order are public records which will become part of my permanent licensure file and will be available for public inspection and reproduction.

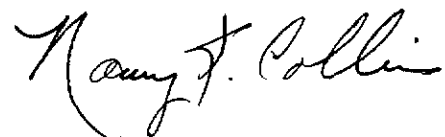

Susan Elizabeth Peterson, Respondent

Subscribed and sworn before me this 28 day of March, 2007.

Notary Public State of Iowa

Notary seal:





ORDER

IT IS THE FINAL ORDER OF THE IOWA BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS that:


1. The stipulations contained herein clearly establish that the Respondent violated Iowa Code sections 272.7 and Board rules 282 IAC 12.3(4)(a) [in place until 9/8/2004] and 282 IAC 25.3(5)(a)(4) and 25.3(6)(j) and (m) [effective 9/8/04 to present] by employing a practitioner to perform duties that the practitioner was not legally qualified to perform and failing to comply with state laws applicable to the fulfillment of professional obligations.

2. The professional administrator license of Susan Elizabeth Peterson, folder number 223382, shall be suspended for a period of one-year. Imposition of the suspension is deferred until January 1, 2008. In order to avoid the suspension, on or before December 31, 2007, the Respondent must provide the Executive Director of the Board with evidence that she has:

- a) enrolled in and successfully completed a Board-approved course addressing professional ethics and licensure;
- b) reviewed and become familiar with the Board rules governing licensure [282 IAC ch. 14, establishing the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics [282 IAC ch. 25], and the Code of Rights and Responsibilities [282 IAC ch. 26]; and
- c) reviewed A-H-S-T Community School District policies and procedures for monitoring practitioner licensure, prepared a report setting forth recommendations for improvement of the procedures to ensure compliance with the general accreditation standards of the Iowa Department of Education governing school personnel licensure verification and reporting [281 IAC rule 12.4], and provided copies of the report to the district Superintendent and the Executive Director of the Board of Educational Examiners.

3. If the Respondent presents evidence of successful completion of the tasks identified in paragraphs 2(a) – (c) to the Executive Director of the Board on or before December 31, 2007, the suspension will not be imposed. If the Respondent fails to complete any of these tasks her license will be suspended for a one year period commencing on January 1, 2008.

Dated this 5th day of April, 2007.


George J. Maurer, Ed.D.

Executive Director
Iowa Board of Educational Examiners

Copies to:

Susan E. Peterson
Christie J. Scase